

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
preempt network and
other regular
programming to air
an anti-Kerry
"documentary" days
before the election
is a probably
illegal act of
electioneering. A
simple invite to
John Kerry to speak
for 5 minutes after
the documentary airs
does not
sufficiently meet
the equal time
clause. The
relationship between
Sinclair and the
Bush administration
is clear.

Sinclair's decision
is also a clear
example of the
dangers of media
consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy.
Sinclair's top
executives,
including members of
the controlling
Smith family, have
determined that
George Bush is good
for their bottom
line, and are
manipulating the
"free" press
accordingly.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license

renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.